



## City Administrator Monthly Update February 2013

By City Administrator Mike Story



### Administration

#### Utility Users Tax Frequently Asked Questions

##### What is the Utility Users Tax (UUT)?

The UUT is an 8% tax on home and business utilities (electric, gas, phone, cable, wireless, sewer and water services). In California, about 150 municipalities and counties have a UUT. Rialto's UUT was originally implemented in 2003 with a five-year sunset on June 30, 2008. When the UUT was approved, the City Council eliminated two taxes -- the citywide PERS Property Tax and a Community Facility District (CFD) Tax in Las Colinas-- saving property owners several hundred dollars in taxes each year.

The UUT was extended in 2007 for an additional five years, expiring on June 30, 2013. A measure to extend the tax another five years is scheduled for a public vote on March 5, 2013.

##### How much does the UUT contribute to the general fund?

The UUT produces \$11 million annually – or 22% of total General Fund revenues. It has had an immediate and lasting impact, providing increased public safety, code enforcement, street maintenance, recreation, senior center operations, and more.

During its first four years, from 2003-2007, the UUT provided funding for the following:

- 9 firefighter/paramedic trainees
- 10 police officers
- 6 law-enforcement technicians
- 2 code enforcement officers
- 1 animal control officer
- 1 battalion chief
- A new fire ladder truck and engine

##### What does the UUT cost me?

The average Rialto resident pays up to \$30.00 per month as a result of the utility tax.

##### Will a “yes” vote increase my taxes?

No. The current 8% tax rate will remain the same if the measure is approved.

##### Why is an extension necessary?

Since 2007, general fund revenues have declined by nearly \$8.5 million, from \$57.8 million to \$49.3 million. This is due to a variety of factors, most notably the lingering economic downturn, which has cut into traditional revenue streams. The elimination of redevelopment agencies and the defeat of Measure V have put an additional financial

strain on the City, to the point where even with a UUT extension the City faces a projected budget deficit in the 2014 fiscal year of \$7.6 million.

#### What is the City doing to run a more fiscally responsible organization?

The City Council and staff are committed to operating in a fiscally responsible manner to provide vital and essential services to the City. Since 2007, we have trimmed payroll from 330 to 259 full-time positions, and we are continuing to look at ways to reduce expenses. As with most California cities, public safety represents 70-80% of expenditures, making service reductions difficult. Moving forward, options include hiring freezes, additional staffing reductions and salary and/or benefit reductions.

#### What if the UUT goes away?

To avoid a financial calamity, the level of service the City provides must not exceed our means to pay for those services. Without a UUT extension, our projected FY 2014 revenues would fall to \$38.1 million – one-third less than they were in 2007, not counting inflation. The impact of that would be felt city-wide, including:

- Loss of up to 20 positions in the Police Department, negatively impacting emergency and non-emergency response times, reducing patrols and arrests, and potentially eliminating the narcotics, SCAT, investigations and traffic units.
- Reduction in paramedic staffing, fire prevention programs, the Arson and SWAT medic program, and up-staffing for high fire-potential events such as red-flag warnings and the Fourth of July.
- Closure of the Las Colinas Fire Station 204, resulting in longer response times and higher risk of property damage and/or loss of life.
- Inability to qualify for certain public safety-related grants that require matching local funds.
- Reductions in street sweeping, graffiti abatement, park maintenance and concrete and sidewalk repair.
- Reduction or elimination of services at the pool, senior center and community center.
- Establishment of usage fees for sports fields and lighting.
- Reduction of two of five code enforcement officers and/or support staff, and three to five public works positions.

#### Don't property taxes and our new water rates pay for a lot of this?

For every dollar spent on property taxes in Rialto, the City receives 14 cents which, added up, accounts for about 10% of the City's General Fund revenues. The average home value in Rialto declined by 60% during the recession and, as a result, property taxes for most property owners dropped by a sizable amount – this reduced property tax revenues for the City.

The water-rate increase will not pay for ongoing General Fund expenses but will be primarily used to make necessary improvements to the City's aging water and wastewater infrastructure.

#### Aren't we simply paying for employee retirement costs?

The City's pension liability has, in fact, gone up over the past five years. At the same time, all bargaining units in the City are now paying their portion of pension costs. Without the \$11 million generated by the UUT, the City's existing liability does not go

away, meaning the only way to make up the difference would be to eliminate positions and vital services. Effective January 1, 2013, all new hires are subject to a pension program which will reduce long term retirement costs.

#### Are low-income households and senior citizens still exempt from paying the tax?

Yes, all components of the low-income and senior citizen exemption program will remain the same for the new measure. Please visit the City's website at [www.rialtoca.gov](http://www.rialtoca.gov) for applications and program details.

#### **Notice of City Offices Closed**

City offices will be closed Monday, February 18 in honor of Presidents' Day.

### **City Clerk**

#### **7<sup>th</sup> Annual The State of Women**

You are cordially invited to the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual The State of Women event on Saturday, March 2, 2013. The topic for the day is "Our View...A Healthy Rialto. Participants will share discussion on living, finances, community, health, family, and education. The event will be held at the Rialto Senior Center, 1411 S. Riverside Avenue from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. Seating is limited, so RSVP no later than Monday, February 25 at (909) 820-2519 or [mrodriguez@rialtoca.gov](mailto:mrodriguez@rialtoca.gov).

#### **Passport Day in the USA**

Join us on Passport Day in the USA, Saturday, March 9. You can apply for your passport and learn more about travel requirements. And, if you process your passport that day, you'll get a free hot dog! For more information on obtaining a passport any time, contact the City Clerk's office at (909) 820-2519 or visit the City website at [www.rialtoca.gov/cityclerk\\_passports.php](http://www.rialtoca.gov/cityclerk_passports.php).

### **Administrative & Community Services**

#### **Finance**

The Finance Department continues to work with the City's auditors to complete the Annual Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2011-12. The report is slated to be completed and presented to the City Council by March 21, 2013. Staff is also working on compiling the Mid-Year budget report which is scheduled to be presented at the February 26, 2013, Council Meeting.

#### **Recreation**

##### More Improvements for the Community Center!

The Recreation Division received a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) to make facility improvements at the Community Center (Johnson Center). The improvements are designed to improve safety and security by adding more lights to walkways and gathering areas for improved visibility at night. In addition, the restrooms in the Multi-purpose Room 101 will be completely renovated and will meet ADA requirements.

Another facet to this project will be the installation of security fencing around the skate park and the replacement of dilapidated windows on the north side of the administration building. Construction is scheduled to begin in June of this year and is expected to be completed by late October or early November.

## Human Resources

### Career Vision: Employment Boot Camp!

Presenter: Jamie Beck, MS

Date: February 20, 2013

Time: 9:00AM – 1:00 PM

Location: Rialto Senior Center

To RSVP, please call (909) 820-2540

Seating is limited to **60!**



### *About the Workshop:*

“Whether someone has been searching for a job for two weeks or two years, this workshop provides imaginative ideas to turn their job search process from reactive to proactive and puts them in the driver's seat. Participants will learn how to NOT be their own worst enemy and find a job based on their passion and interests, using innovative search techniques and learn effective resume writing and interview techniques.” – Jamie Beck, MS

### *Presenter Bio:*

Presenter, Jamie Beck, has a Master's Degree in Human Services with an emphasis in Social Systems and a concentration in Family and Work and She has worked for California Department of Education and First 5 funded programs in the public and nonprofit sector, has been a CSU Career Counselor, owns and operates Baby Elephant Books, presents career education workshops and trainings at libraries, high schools, colleges and community organizations, keynotes at conferences and offers private career coaching.

### Job Fair

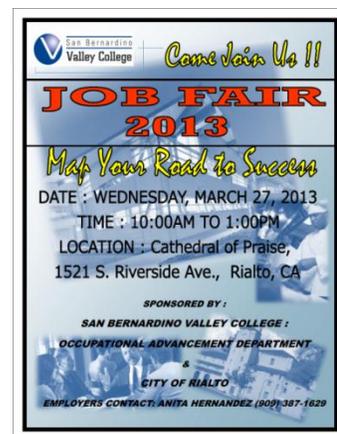
*Partnership between San Bernardino Valley College, Cathedral of Praise, and City of Rialto.*

Date: Wednesday, March 27, 2013

Time: 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Location: Cathedral of Praise - 1521 S. Riverside Ave., Rialto, CA 92376

For information, contact Anita Hernandez at (909) 378-1629



## Police Department

### City-Sourced “App”

City-Sourced delivers custom mobile reporting applications to our residents across all the major smart-phone platforms (iPhone, Android, Blackberry, & Windows Phone). City-Sourced provides a simple platform empowering residents to identify public safety issues (gang activity, narcotics activity, graffiti, abandoned vehicles etc.) and report them to the



Police Department, Code Enforcement, or Public Works for resolution. This application is NOW available! For more visit our website at [www.rialtopd.com](http://www.rialtopd.com).

### Coffee with the Chief



"Coffee with the Chief" offers resident's an opportunity to personally meet their Police Chief and other representatives in a casual setting. Please join Chief Tony Farrar for "Coffee with the Chief" Tuesday February 12, 2013 at Carrow's Restaurant 298 W. Baseline Avenue from 8:00 am to 9:00 am.

### Reminder - Rialto PD is on Facebook!



Facebook allows law enforcement to connect with their communities, post news and alerts, investigate and even solve crimes using information they collect through the site. It's a great way to get feedback, hear opinions, and engage in dialogue with the community you serve. Keep up with what's happening in your community. Visit us on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/RialtoPD>

### 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Battle of the Badges – Blood Drive

On January 8, 2013, the Rialto Police Department in partnership with the Rialto Fire Department participated in the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual "Battle of the Badges" blood drive. This was a great opportunity for all city employees, family and friends to positively impact our communities. This event had over 65 donors! Thanks to everyone involved. A special thanks to Kim Martin, Noretta Barker, Kathy Thompson and Frank Bekker.



### Selective Traffic Enforcement Grant FY 2014

The Police Department will be applying for a Selective Enforcement Grant funded through the Office of Traffic Safety (OTS). This grant is designed to reduce the number of persons killed or injured in crashes involving alcohol, speed, aggressive driving, seat-belt enforcement, and distracted driving (cell phone and texting). If awarded, the department will receive \$159,804.14.

### Department Promotions

Please join me in congratulating Jim Kurkoske on his promotion to Lieutenant, David Shepherd on his promotion to Sergeant, and Cameron Nelson on his promotion to Corporal.

### Regional Air Support Program

During the months of August and September, Eagle 1 logged a total of 270.5 flight hours. The air-ship was first on-scene 170 (41%) of the time, and total calls for service were: Fontana (242), Rialto (105), Colton (48), and Redlands (15). If you have any questions regarding the air-support program, please contact Captain Randy DeAnda at [rdeanda@rialtopd.com](mailto:rdeanda@rialtopd.com).



## Demand a Plan to End Gun Violence

The Police Department will be participating in the "[Demand a Plan to End Gun Violence](#)" Mini Conference. This event is scheduled for **February 15** from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm at Carter High School. There will be special welcomes and appearances from city, county, state and federal elected officials.

## Fuel for Success Kick-Off 2013

The Inland Valley SWAT Team will be participating in the 2013 Fuel for Success Program. The Fuel for Success Program has empowered at-risk youth across the United States to endure pressures of daily life and to continue with school, and pursue a healthy life style. This year's program is on March 21, 2013 at Colton High School. The Rialto Police Department has also joined the Fuel for Success program as one of their law enforcement partners.

## Golf with a Cop

On February 9, 2013, the Rialto Police Department hosted its "Golf with a Cop" Clinic. This event featured US Riverside golf coaches along with special guest and PGA Tour winner Brendon Steele. The event was held at the Colton Golf Club located at 1916 Valley Blvd. The event is open to age 12-17 year old Rialto residents. For information on future events, please contact Corporal Cameron Nelson at 909-820-2515.



## Police Department Freeway Memorial Dedication

On Thursday, January 31, 2013 members of the Rialto Police Department, supported by the Mayor and City Council, City Staff, families of the fallen, and a host of others attended the I-10 Freeway sign dedication ceremony for our fallen officers. Thank you to all who attended.



## Crime Alert – How to Avoid being Skimmed

There have been several reported cases.



Here are a few ways to stay aware:

1. Inspect the ATM, gas pump, or credit card reader before using it...be suspicious if you see anything loose, crooked, or damaged, or if you notice scratches or adhesive/tape residue.
2. When entering your PIN, block the keypad with your other hand to prevent possible hidden cameras from recording your number.
3. If possible, use an ATM at an inside location (less access for criminals to install skimmers).
4. Be careful of ATMs in tourist areas...they are a popular target of skimmers.

## Area Command Meetings February 2013

Area #3 Meeting – Wednesday, February 13, 2013 at 7 pm, Bloomington Christian 9904 Bloomington Ave. For additional information contact Lieutenant Bill Wilson (909) 421-7276 Email: [wwilson@rialtopd.com](mailto:wwilson@rialtopd.com)

Area #4 Meeting – Thursday, February 28, 2013 at 7 pm, Boyd Elementary School 310 E Merrill Ave. For additional information contact Lieutenant Jim Kurkoske (909) 820-2634 Email: [jkurkoske@rialtopd.com](mailto:jkurkoske@rialtopd.com)

## Fire Department

### Training in Your neighborhood

Fighting fires in apartment buildings can be particularly challenging for firefighters. Long hallways, winding stairwells, a large number of occupants, and the sheer size of the buildings all contribute to the complexity. To prepare for this, the Rialto Fire Department partnered with the owners of the apartments at 302 W. Merrill Ave. to conduct a full-scale fire department training exercise. The training was held over a three day period and consisted of a mock fire on the second floor with a potential for rescue of several occupants.



The exercise provided a realistic backdrop for firefighters to hone their individual and team skills. It was also a great opportunity for the residents there to see our firefighters in action, and get to know our department members.

### Check out the Rialto Fire Facebook page

The Rialto Fire Department is one of the busiest in the region, delivering excellent emergency care and promoting safety in our community. Rialto's residents and visitors can now keep track of what's happening in the fire department by following the RFD on Facebook. You'll find all the latest information about the department including events, news stories, photos, safety tips, and much more. Show your support and like us on [Facebook!](https://www.facebook.com/rialtofiredepartment) <https://www.facebook.com/rialtofiredepartment>

### New Fire Prevention Employees

The fire department would like to welcome its newest members of the fire prevention bureau, Mikki Sherry and Tori Jung. Mikki and Tori were both hired as part of the City's multi-family rental housing fire inspection program, which began this January. This program is an important step in meeting the fire department's mission to reduce injuries, fatalities, and property damage due to fire. These Fire Prevention Specialists will be responsible for conducting State mandated fire inspections of rental occupancies with three units or more units. Each of them comes with strong education and experience in community risk reduction programs. Although they will be inspecting to ensure compliance with the Health and Safety Code, their emphasis will be on educating owners and occupants on how they can keep their environment fire safe. By working cooperatively with building owners, the



Prevention Specialists will serve as a resource to promote safe and attractive housing for our community.

## New Look for RFD

The Rialto Fire Department PRIDE (Professional Results In a Day's Effort) committee has developed a new look for our fire department logo. The new logo emphasizes the proud tradition of Rialto by displaying the famed bridge as its centerpiece along with the traditional fire service Maltese Cross and fire axes. Together they connect the tradition of our City with the legacy of brave service that the fire department is proud to provide. The new logo can be seen on our Firefighter's uniform t-shirts and sweatshirts.



## Burn Awareness Week

National Burn Awareness Week (Feb. 3-9), is a great reminder to parents and caregivers that fire is just one cause of burn injuries - children can also be seriously injured by hot foods and beverages, heating appliances, hot pots and pans, electrical currents and chemicals. Of particular emphasis this year is the prevention of scald injuries. According to the [American Burn Association](#) and [Shriners Children's Hospital](#), about 95 percent of scald burns (which are caused by hot liquids, steam or foods) occur in the home. Scalds are the most common burn injury among young children and one of the leading causes of accidental death in the home for children under age four. U.S. hospitals treat an estimated 16,000 children under five for scalds every year.



Here are some recommendations to help prevent scald injuries:

- Install anti-scald devices on water faucets and shower heads
- Use knob covers on faucets
- Create "kid free zones" in the kitchen near the stove
- Reduce water temperature - the maximum recommended residential water temperature is 120° F (48° C)

For additional information Burn Awareness Week and how you can prevent burns in your home, visit the United States Fire Administration's website on burn prevention at [http://www.usfa.fema.gov/citizens/home\\_fire\\_prev/burn\\_prevention.shtm](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/citizens/home_fire_prev/burn_prevention.shtm)

In addition to our efforts to prevent burns, the Rialto Fire Department is proud to support the [Inland Empire Burn Institute](#) in their quest to reduce burn injuries and fire fatalities through burn prevention, education, and burn survivor support programs. This month, the RFD delivered toys that were donated from our community members to be distributed to young burn survivors at their annual "Camp Beyond the Scars" program held in Big Bear.

**Pictured below from left:** Jeanne Terwilliger, Burn Institute, RFD Paramedic/Firefighter Cody Young, RFD Prevention Specialist Mikki Sherry, RFD Asstant Fire Marshal Kerri Walton, Sherri Laffey-Long, Burn Institute, and RFD Paramedic/Firefighter Angela Licurse.



## Rialto Fire Stations

Supporting a 24/7 operation puts a lot a wear on a fire station. Our firefighters have no shortage of pride, however, as they put the finishing touches on renovations at Fire Station 201. Partnering with the City's Public Works Department, Fire Department personnel have been putting their remodeling skills to work between emergency calls to keep these city facilities attractive, reduce maintenance costs, and get the most out of our facilities. Community members who would like to see more of Rialto's Fire Stations can set up tours by calling the Fire Department at (909) 820-2501.

Don't have time to go to the fire station for a tour? Here's one you can take on-line! This month, our new Rialto Fire Station 202 was featured on Inland Empire Explorer's review of things to see in the I.E. Click [HERE](#) to see the tour.



## Development Services Department

### Wal-Mart Supercenter Submits Revised Site Plans

As reported last month, the California Supreme Court notified the City of Rialto and Wal-Mart that it had rejected the latest appeal delaying the Wal-Mart Supercenter Project. Wal-Mart may now proceed to develop the project in accordance with the plans approved by the City of Rialto back in 2008.

On January 15, 2013 the Development Review Committee reviewed and approved a revised site plan submitted by Wal-Mart. The new proposal includes the construction of a 181,395 square foot retail building at the southwest corner of Riverside Avenue and San Bernardino Avenue. Wal-Mart representatives indicated that they would commence preparation of construction drawings for a June 2013 plancheck submittal to the Building and Engineering Divisions.

After City plancheck approval, Wal-Mart will secure corporate financing and commence construction in late 2013 or early 2014.

## Target Cold Storage Facility Advances

The Target Cold Storage facility is moving rapidly toward completion during summer 2013. The 499,000 square foot facility at the southwest corner of Renaissance Parkway and Laurel Avenue is very visible to travelers on the 210 Freeway. The building will crest at a height of 85 feet for the freezer component.



*Aerial photograph of the Target Distribution Facility taking shape near the intersection of Renaissance Parkway and Laurel Avenue.*

## In-N-Out Burger Executes Purchase and Sale Agreement

On January 22, 2013, the City Council approved a Holdback Agreement with In-N-Out Burger. Approval of the Holdback Agreement was the final issue preventing In-N-Out from executing the purchase and sale agreement previously approved by the City Council.

The Holdback Agreement allows In-N-Out Burger to close escrow on its retail pad, and commence construction prior to the City's completion of site work required by In-N-Out before occupancy of the new restaurant. The needed work includes a traffic signal at the entry driveway and a freeway sign. The City may be subject to monetary penalties if it does not complete the site work prior to the opening of the restaurant.

Approval of the Holdback Agreement should accelerate the opening of the new restaurant by approximately four months, with opening now contemplated in late summer.

## January Actions of the Oversight Board

The Oversight Board for the Successor Agency to the former Redevelopment Agency held its regularly scheduled meeting on January 15, 2013. The notable agenda action items were:

- The Board approved the **Unencumbered Fund Remittance Report for the Non-Housing Funds** of the former Agency and authorized its submittal to the Department of Finance. The Report ascertains the amount of unobligated cash held by the Successor Agency that is available for remittance to the County Auditor Controller, who then distributes the remitted funds to the various taxing entities in San Bernardino County. The Report determined the Successor Agency's obligation to be \$10,171,154. The State Department of Finance will review the Report and submit its findings in the next 30-45 days.
- The Oversight Board approved the final payment to the County Auditor Controller related to the **Unencumbered Fund Remittance Report for the Housing Funds**. On January 3, 2013 the Successor Agency paid \$3,016,856 to the County, who will then distribute the funds as property taxes to the various taxing entities in San Bernardino County.
- The Oversight Board approved a lease for 131 South Riverside Avenue (the former Agency's corporate offices) by the Rialto Education Association on a month-to-month basis. The proposed lease is under review by the Department of Finance in accordance with its statutory authority under AB 1484.
- The Oversight Board approved the dedication of various rights-of-way owned by the Successor Agency. The proposed dedications surround the Rialto Airport and support various development projects, which either are under construction or proposed. The dedications are under review by the Department of Finance in accordance with its statutory authority under AB 1484.

The City General Fund should realize a one-time boost in property tax collections of approximately \$1.8 million to its General Fund because of the required remittances to the County Auditor Controller. The City receives a 14% share of the property taxes allocated.

## New Business Licenses Issued during January

The City welcomed the following businesses to Rialto during the month of January 2013. The City sent each of these new businesses a welcome letter and a statement of appreciation for choosing Rialto as their business home.

Business Name	Address	Goods/Service
➤ 1040 Tax Biz	3118 North Quince	Tax Service
➤ A Smile Gallery Inc.	234 North Riverside	Dental
➤ Acne & Skin Care Center	239 North Riverside #B	Facials
➤ Alex's Jumpers Party Rental	865 East Foothill	Jumper Rental
➤ Chiropractic Health Center	1734 North Riverside #5	Chiropractor
➤ FDR Machine	993 West Valley #101	Repair Service

➤ Favored By God Child Care	972 West Carter	Child Care
➤ High Impact Marketing	323 West Valley #A	Consulting
➤ MM Satellite Service	1645 South Riverside #D	Satellite Installation
➤ Morgan Barber Shop #5	579 East Foothill #A	Barber Shop
➤ Nunez Barber & Beauty	444 East Foothill #A	Barber Shop
➤ Pama Management	El Monte, CA	Property Management
➤ Panaderia Jalisco Bakery #2	584 West Foothill	Bakery
➤ Quick Stop Food Mart	481 West Baseline	Food Mart
➤ Replanet LLC	168 East Baseline	Redemption Center
➤ Replanet LLC	1055 West Bloomington	Redemption Center
➤ Sanchez Income Tax	308 North Riverside #2d	Tax Service
➤ Smoke Shop Etc.	1304 West Foothill #A	Smoke Shop
➤ Unitech Auto Repair	1436 North Ayala #N	Minor Auto Repair
➤ Wise Professional Services	658 Bloomington	Financial

### **Building Permit Revenue Indicates Improving Construction Activity for 2013**

Building permit related revenues for FY 13 should surpass the \$1 million mark for the first time since FY 08, confirming a slow but steady recovery from the worst real estate recession in decades. New industrial developments such as the Target Distribution Facility and the Baseline/Locust Industrial Center are primarily responsible for the boost, although commercial tenant improvements and residential remodeling permits are also increasing. Because of the increased revenues from building permits, the Development Services Department expects to produce a surplus in FY 13, which will allow the Development Services Department to eliminate or reduce its General Fund subsidy.

### **City Introduces Mortgage Assistance Program for First-Time Home Buyers.**

The Mortgage Assistance Program contributes up to \$27,000 toward closing costs and down payments for homebuyers seeking to purchase a home in Rialto. The program is available to low-income households (those earning less than 80% of area median income). The assistance consists of a 3% loan with no payments due until the home is sold. Eligible borrowers must be first-time homebuyers and occupy the property as their primary residence. The State of California's CalHome program provides funding. Please contact Neighborhood Partnership Housing Services at (909) 988-5979 or call John Dutrey with the City of Rialto at (909) 820-8014 for additional information.



### **Home Repair Program Funds Again Available for Eligible Homeowners**



The City is restarting its Home Sweet Home Repair Program for eligible homeowners. The program offers a loan of up to \$60,000 to conduct minor or major repairs to owner occupied homes. Low-income homeowners (those earning less than 80% of area median income) are eligible, provided adequate equity is available to secure the loan. The loans carry a simple interest rate of 3% with no payments due until the home is sold. City staff will assist the homeowner in developing the scope of work and

seeking licensed contractors. The State of California provides funding under its CalHome program. Interested homeowners may Contact Rosalind Joiner with the City of Rialto at (909) 820-8013.

## Hoarding

Hoarding is the excessive collection of items, and the inability to discard them. Hoarding creates cramped living conditions with homes filled to capacity, and only narrow pathways winding through stacks of clutter. Some hoarders also collect animals, keeping dozens or hundreds of pets often in unsanitary conditions. Hoarding, also called compulsive hoarding and compulsive hoarding syndrome, may be a symptom of obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD). However, many hoarders do not have other OCD-related symptoms. People who hoard often do not see it as a problem, making treatment challenging. However, intensive treatment helps people who hoard understand their compulsions and live safer, more enjoyable lives.

The Code Enforcement Division is diligently working on the issue of hoarding. Its approach is to help Rialto's citizens with this disorder rather than removing them from their homes and taking the property through a receivership process. The Division has been working on one specific property where the hoarder is reluctant to accept assistance. The Division has obtained volunteer counseling from the County of San Bernardino Adult Protective Services and assisted in the cleaning of the property. Volunteers have cleaned the property several times in the last six years. Recently, the resident agreed to allow removal of all non-essential materials. Since the resident is not physically able to collect items as fervently as in the past, and with more intense professional counseling, staff hopes that the property will not revert to its unkempt condition. The photo below shows the front of the property at the beginning of a partial clean-up. Staff expects to complete the process within a few weeks.



The City's Work Release Program supplements the clean-up work force and provides labor at no cost while providing an alternative to incarceration for inmates in the County Sheriff's Department care. We are able to utilize this work force to assist with various tasks from clean-ups at special events to beautification of parks, alleyways and parkways.

## Public Works

### Park Clean Up Days

As part of an effort to make the City Parks a better place to play, the Public Works Department is hosting Park Clean-Up Days on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of every month from January through November 2013 from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm.

Come join in the raking, trimming, shoveling, sweeping, painting and trash clean-up alongside City's Workers. The schedule of dates is as follows:

March 9, 2013.....Margaret Todd Park..... 201 N. Willow Avenue

April 13, 2013 .....	Andreson Park.....	726 S. Lilac Avenue
May 11, 2013.....	Flores Park .....	1020 W. Etiwanda Avenue
June 8, 2013.....	Jerry Eaves Park.....	1485 N. Ayala Avenue
July 13, 2013 .....	Fergusson Park.....	2395 W. Sunrise Avenue
August 10, 2013 .....	Frisbie Park.....	1901 N. Acacia Avenue
September 14, 2013 .....	Birdsall Park .....	2611 N. Linden Avenue
October 12, 2013.....	Metrolink Station .....	261 S. Palm Avenue
November 9, 2013 .....	Downtown Rialto.....	Riverside & Rialto Avenues

### **Foothill Boulevard Aesthetic Improvements**

On April 23, 2009, Foothill Boulevard within the City of Rialto was relinquished to the City from the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). Foothill Boulevard is a part of the Historic Route 66 and extends from Pepper Avenue to the east to Maple Avenue to the west. As part of that relinquishment, Caltrans has provided \$1,850,000 to the City to complete pavement upgrades in addition to other improvements.

On February 23, 2010, the City Council reviewed and approved the Foothill Boulevard (previously State Highway Route 66) Aesthetics Improvement Concept Plan. The Concept Plan included the following improvements:

- Pavement Rehabilitation
- Installation of bus shelters near Riverside Avenue
- Installation of entry monument structures including water features at the east and west City boundaries
- Installation of new street name signs throughout the corridor
- Installation of an intersection pavement enhancement at Foothill Boulevard and Riverside Avenue

The pavement rehabilitation portion of the project has been completed and staff is currently completing the design of the aesthetic elements along the corridor. The City Council is scheduled to review the final design plans and approve bidding the project in March.

### **Baseline Road Median Improvements**

Eisenhower High School is located on Baseline Road between Lilac Avenue and Willow Avenue. This segment of Baseline Road has an existing median that was constructed without landscaping, and does not adequately prevent pedestrians from attempting mid-block crossings away from the signalized intersections. There is a high rate of illegal jaywalking across Baseline Road, and students typically use the existing median as a refuge to cross this major street. Illegal jaywalking is a traffic hazard, and the City is moving forward with plans to improve the traffic safety, and eliminate the high rate of illegal jaywalking by students who repeatedly cross Baseline Road in mid-block locations away from the more appropriate, and legal, signalized intersections. The City is proposing to remove the existing cobble paving and install a new wrought iron fence and significant landscaping to provide a barrier to illegal jaywalking. This project will improve traffic safety while enhancing the aesthetics of this major arterial corridor.

### **Highway Safety Improvement Program Grant – Citywide Traffic Signal Upgrade**

In 2011, the City of Rialto submitted an application to the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) for the federally funded Highway Safety Improvement

Program (HSIP) Cycle 4, requesting a federal grant to retrofit existing traffic signals within a half-mile radius of various elementary and middle schools within the City of Rialto. The overall purpose of the HSIP is to achieve a significant reduction in traffic fatalities and serious injuries on all public roads through the implementation of the infrastructure-related safety improvements.

The Public Works Department collaborated with the Police Department and the Rialto Unified School District to consider alternatives available to providing safer routes to school, and it was concluded that upgrading older style “man/hand” pedestrian signals to “countdown” style pedestrian signals is the most effective means of providing safer crossings for school age children at major intersections.

The HSIP is a competitive grant program, and awarding grant funds is based on the highest benefit-cost ratio determined and evaluated by Caltrans. 357 projects were submitted by various local agencies throughout the state to Caltrans to compete for the \$74.5 Million in HSIP funding available. Only 179 projects statewide were selected, which included only 20 projects within the Riverside-San Bernardino County area. Only four Inland Empire cities (Highland, Redlands, Rialto, and San Bernardino) were awarded funding through the HSIP – Cycle 4 grant. Caltrans approved the City’s application for funding in the amount of \$334,800.

The project includes the upgrade and replacement of older "man/hand" pedestrian signals with new “countdown” pedestrian signals at signalized intersections within a one-half mile radius of 24 elementary and middle schools. Conversion of pedestrian signals will enhance safety near schools by giving pedestrians and bicyclists the exact amount of time available to cross signalized intersections. Displaying the remaining walk time provides pedestrians or bicyclists with the exact walking interval time available to cross safely.

Upgrading old “man/hand” pedestrian signals to updated “countdown” pedestrian signals promotes pedestrian safety given that many schools in Rialto are classified as "walkable," meaning school bus transportation is not provided to students who live within a 2 mile radius of a school. Major street crossings along routes to schools are often augmented with crossing guards to improve pedestrian safety. Methods to increase school route safety were researched, and studies concluded that “countdown” pedestrian signals result in improved pedestrian safety.

The Public Works Department has completed the environmental analysis of this project with Caltrans, and has received authorization to proceed with preparation of construction documents for bidding. Staff is current preparing these documents for submittal to Caltrans for authorization to proceed with construction, with construction to be completed prior to the start of the school year in Fall 2013.

## **Solid Waste Management News**

### Special Collection

Seeds of Hope...Special Jacket and Sweater Collection

On Saturday January 26<sup>th</sup>, Seeds of Hope Outreach was on hand at the City Hall parking lot to accept donations of jackets and sweaters. The collection event was a great success. Residents brought in



approximately 250 jackets, coats and sweaters. In addition 10 bags of clothing and shoes were also donated along with miscellaneous household items.

Winter time is always a difficult time for individuals and families who are in need. Thanks to your generous donations, those less fortunate will receive a little warmth this year. For more information about Seeds of Hope or to make a donation you can call 909-856-0741 or EMAIL: [seedsofhopeoutreach@yahoo.com](mailto:seedsofhopeoutreach@yahoo.com)

### Community Clean-Up Day

During our January Community Clean-Up Day the rainy weather did not keep the residents away. We collected a total of 12,145 pounds of electronic waste at City Hall and took in 399 used tires from City residents at our Public Works yard.

**The next Community Clean-Up Day will be held on April 13, 2013, from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm.**

### Hazardous Household Waste Collection

During the month of December, Solid Waste held their Hazardous Household Waste Collection. The total stats for the event were as follows:

- **205 Resident** served
- **1060 gallons** of used motor oil
- **7 pallets** of paint
- **7 drums** of miscellaneous poisons and other toxic liquids
- **30 gallons** of antifreeze
- **11 barrels** of sharps
- **40 vehicle** batteries



During the month of February, the site will be open from 8:00 am to 12:00 noon on January 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>.